



Weiser, James <jweiser@blm.gov>

language for DNA

1 message

Ataman, Kathryn <kataman@blm.gov>

Fri, Jul 5, 2013 at 8:45 AM

To: Gerald Dixon <gdixon@blm.gov>, James Weiser <jweiser@blm.gov>

I hope this language is sufficient. Call me if you need clarification. (231 894-8480)

Kathy

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Special Status Species (Plants) Stipulation:

In order to avoid potential impacts to Sand Cholla, a survey shall be conducted by a qualified botanist prior to any surface disturbance for the reconfiguration of the South Heap Leach Facility (SHLF). Surveys must be conducted no more than 10 days and no less than 3 days prior to initiation of disturbance. Surveys must follow established BLM standards and protocols, and should be approved by the BLM biologist prior to being implemented. If Sand Cholla are located, the Sand Cholla will be transplanted and stored within a plant nursery until it can be transplanted into the ground within the existing PoO boundary or within the Well Field area, to be analyzed in the Rail Spur EA. The BLM biologist must be notified if Sand Cholla are located and are transplanted.

Cultural Resource Stipulation:

Prior to the initiation of any ground-disturbing activities associated with the construction of the South Heap Leach, archaeological excavations at Sites CrNV-22-4102, 22-3872, 02-9768, and 22-4670 must be completed according to the stipulations of the Treatment Plan for the Hycroft Expansion Project. A letter report describing the completion of work must be submitted to the BLM. BLM must concur with

the letter report and make a decision to issue a Notice to Proceed. This decision must be conveyed to Nevada SHPO according to the Memorandum of Agreement signed for the Expansion Project. SHPO must be given the opportunity to object for the prescribed time period before the Notice to Proceed is issued. The MOA for the project was amended to include Site CrNV-02- 9768. The site was subject to Phase I testing as described in the Treatment Plan and no Phase II excavation was determined to be necessary. After completion of the archaeological fieldwork, postfield analysis and report preparation of the excavation results will be undertaken and artifacts will be curated in an approved facility. A bond is in place to ensure that this work is completed.

Also, in accordance with the Treatment Plan for the project, if any previously unidentified significant cultural resources are found during construction in the South Heap Leach area, they will be investigated, evaluated, and mitigated in accordance with the Treatment Plan. Periodic monitoring during construction will be conducted with professional archaeologists in the company of project inspectors. Safety procedures during this monitoring will be strictly adhered to.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances

(such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings,

updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new

information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of

the new proposed action?

No new information or circumstances are known that would impact the analysis already

conducted in the existing NEPA documents. Add Cultural Comments *Several archaeological sites included in the Treatment Plan for the Hycroft Expansion Project will be affected more substantially by the change in the design of the South Heap Leach than they were from the original design but they will not be impacted in a substantially different manner. These sites are currently being excavated according to the stipulations in the Treatment Plan for the project. The mitigation currently underway is sufficient to mitigate the effects of the change in the leach pad design, but construction may not begin until the work is completed and that work has been reviewed by BLM and SHPO. In addition, because there is potential for the presence of buried, unidentified significant archaeological sites in the area of the reconfigured South Heap Leach, archaeological monitoring during construction will be required. Therefore there are no circumstances substantially changing the previous analysis.*